MINUTES

OF THE

ABBOTT'S CREEK UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

BEGUN AND HELD AT

MOUNT-TABOR MEETING-HOUSE,

RANDOLPH COUNTY, N. C.,

COMMENCING ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE FOURTH LORD'S DAY IN

AUGUST, 1848.

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ASHBOROUGH.

1848.

MINUTES.

August 26th, A. D. 1848.

1. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Ashley Swaim, from Matthew, 2nd chap., latter clause of 2nd verse.

2. The Association then convened, and was opened by singing and prayer by Elder Philip Snider.

3. Letters from the several churches were called for and read, and the state of each church minuted as follows:

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized, &c.	By Letter.	Adoption.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Number.	Contributions.
										$ cts.
Flat Creek.	Jarrot Russell, David Sofly,* Caleb Shaver.	2		2					27	2 07½
Abbott's Creek.	Elder A. Swaim, Asael Hedgecock, Samuel Craven.						1	2	92	2 00
Timber Ridge,	William Swaim, Daniel Swaim.								9	50
Tom's Creek.	Samuel Styers, James Harrison, Riley Hill.				1			3	38	1 50
Mount Tabor.	Elder Jacob H. Craven, Thompson Craven, John Hammer.							1	17	75
Jamestown.	Jos. B. Armfield, William Wiley.								11	50
Holloway's.	Reuben Workman.*							1	10	30
Brush Creek.	Aaron Moffitt, Jesse Arledge, John R. Craven.	2						1	18	50
Pine M. H.	John H. Barret, Timothy McBride,* George Dedman.*	24		1	1	1		1	59	2 00
Sandy Creek.	Henry Kivett, Joab Caviness,* Aaron Routh.*	1		1					16	75
	*Absent. Total	29		4	2	1	1	9	297	$10 87½

4. Elder Ashley Swaim continued Moderator.

5. Corresponding Messengers were invited to seats; whereupon Elder John Stadler and brother John Brooks from Country Line; brother Joseph R. Croom from Contentnea; Elder H. Preslar and brethren Levi K. Honeycut, H. Herren and Drury M. Williams from Bear Creek, with minutes. Received a file of minutes from Kehukee. Invited ministering brethren to seats with us, and Elder Nathaniel Norwood accepted the invitation.

6. *Committee of Finance*—J. B. Armfield and S. Craven.

7. Appointed Elders Stadler, Preslar and Norwood, with the Moderator and Clerk, a Committee of Arrangements, to report on Monday morning.

8. Circular Letter called for, and referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

9. Elected Elders Stadler, Preslar, and P. Snider, to preach to-morrow; worship to commence at 10 o'clock.

10. Prayer by the Moderator. Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY, August 27th.

The brethren chosen to preach to-day attended. Elder Preslar preached from John, 6th chap. 45th v.; Elder P. Snider from 1st Epistle of John, 4th chap. 19th v.; Elder Stadler from Ephesians, 3d chap. 8th v. The word preached was delivered in faithfulness, the congregation was attentive, and we hope that JEHOVAH will add his blessing to the same, to the benefit of saint and sinner.

AUGUST 28th,

Monday Morning, 9 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment; singing and prayer by the Moderator.

13. Messengers' names called, absentees noted, and rules of decorum read.

14. Elder Peacock present and invited to a seat.

15. Committee of Arrangements made their report, and was discharged.

16. Elder Peacock reported, that Elder Lewis J. Snider and himself had ordained Jesse Dedman a deacon of the church at Pine Meeting-house.

17. Our brethren appointed to sister Associations, reported satisfactory.

18. Committee of Finance reported, deficiency of funds:—Due he Clerk $1 47½.

Contribution of the churches, - - -	$10 87½	
A deficiency of funds—the brethren paid in - -	3 25	
		$14 12½
Paid for printing these minutes, - - -	7 00	
Due the Clerk for last year, - - - -	1 47½	
Clerk's services this year, - - - - -	5 00	
		13 47½
Leaving a balance in hand of - -		65

19. Agreed that we appoint Corresponding Messengers to sister Associations:

To Country Line—Elder P. Snider, brethren H. Kivett, John Hammer, Samuel Styers, and Jesse Arledge.

Mayo—Barnet Idol and Obadiah H. Chipman.

Bear Creek—Elders A. Swaim, J. H. Craven, P. Snider, A. Peacock, and brethren Joel Reed, Jacob Miller, Samuel Styers, and James Harrison.

Little River—John R. Craven, Henry Kivett, and John Hammer.

Fisher's River—J. B. Armfield, Samuel Craven, and A. Hedgecock; and that we correspond by minutes with the Kehukee, Fig River, White Oak, and Contentnea Associations.

20. Your Committee to whom the Circular was referred, recommend it to be read in the Association; which was done, and ordered to be attached to these minutes.

21. Two of the brethren appointed to visit the church at Holloway's did so, and found them in union.

22. On motion, requested our Clerk to transcribe the articles of our Faith, in order to be attached to the minutes of our next Association.

23. *Resolved by this Association*, That Elders Ashley Swaim, Jacob H. Craven, and Jesse Arledge, Aaron Moffitt, Joseph B. Armfield, Daniel Swaim, and Samuel Craven, draught a petition to the next State Legislature, praying them to repeal the act of the Legislature of 1844, incorporating religious societies, and pass no more such acts granting religious privileges, as we think they are dangerous to our civil and religious liberties.

24. Agreed that we have 400 copies of these minutes printed, and distributed as usual.

25. Our next Association to be held with the church at Tom's Creek Meeting-house, Davidson county, N. C., eighteen miles south of Lexington; to commence Saturday before the 4th Lord's day in August, 1849. Elder Lewis J. Snider to preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, Elder Ashley Swaim: worship to commence at 11 o'clock.

26. After singing, and prayer by Elder H. Preslar, adjourned to time and place mentioned.

ASHLEY SWAIM, *Moderator.*

JESSE ARLEDGE, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE LIBERTY OF GOD'S CHILDREN.

To the several Churches composing the Abbott's Creek Union Association, and to all the Israel of God; Grace, Mercy, and Peace be multiplied unto you:

BELOVED BRETHREN AND SISTERS:—You no doubt will be expecting a Circular Address from us, your representatives in our Association in 1848. We therefore send you the following Address, on the Liberty of God's Children:

Gal. 5th chap. 1st v.: *Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

The great Apostle of the Gentiles, was speaking in this epistle to the Church at Galatia, and reminding them of their former condition whilst in a state of nature, and how by divine Grace they were brought out of the bondage of sin, and translated into the kingdom of his dear Son; and brings forward an allegory, of Agar and Sarah, to show the difference between the law and gospel. Now all the ceremonials in the law-worship have ceased, and there is no more of this bondage in worship to the heirs of promise. Hence, beloved, as we are children of the free woman, we exhort and admonish you, one and all, (inasmuch as Christ hath made us free, we shall be free indeed,) not to be entangled with any of the inventions of men, in their new earth-born societies, in any shape or form whatever; for these all gendereth to bondage, and are calculated in their nature to mar the peace, becloud the mind, and create burdens and distress; and this has been the case wherever they have gone, and some of the children of the free woman have been entangled in them, to the wounding of their own souls and piercing themselves through with many sorrows.

Moreover, we, as primitive Baptists, do most solemnly protest against all incorporations of every name and order by legislative authority; believing it to be unconstitutional; and he that would regard his oath of office, as a representative of the people, no more than to violate both his oath and the constitution, in voting for or giving sanction in any way to such an act, is not worthy the confidence of any candid man.

We know that in matters of religion, (so called,) it is often urged, that if an act is done with an honest heart and sincerity of mind, it is acceptable with God. To which we reply; this shows a want of confidence in God, and the estimate

they put upon his word; therefore we say, all acts done as in matters of religion, that are not recognized in the sacred Scriptures, are an abomination to the Lord; he never has owned nor blessed them, and never will. Look at the case of king Saul when God commanded him to go and slay the Amalekites and all that they had, both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass; and when Samuel the prophet went to him, he would justify himself by lying; but the sheep and oxen betrayed him, then he would justify himself with a plea of good motive, that they were saved to sacrifice to the Lord their God; but Samuel said, obedience is better than sacrifice. Remember the case of Uzzah: when the people had taken the ark of God, to whom it did not belong, and it proved a curse to them, they went to take it back where it belonged, and the oxen stumbled and shook it, and Uzzah put forth his hand to steady it. No one will doubt the honesty of heart or purity of motive, in that act of Uzzah. But it was contrary to the command of God, and therefore he was smitten dead. Next we bring forward the case of Naaman, who was plagued with the leprosy, and when he was directed by the man of God to that plain and simple cure of the disease, by dipping seven times in the river Jordan, it was disgusting to his pride, and he exclaimed, what! "are not Abana and Pharpher, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?" and he turned and went away in a rage. Is not this just like many religionists in the present day, who say in effect, (and some speak it right out,) Are not our inventions and benevolent institutions, camp-meetings, anxious benches, &c., better than the way that God has ordained to save sinners? But Naaman, poor man, proud and haughty as he was, had to come to Jordan at last and comply with the word of the Lord by his prophet; and so will they, or the leprosy of sin will prove their everlasting overthrow. Lastly, in answer to such pleas of honesty and sincerity, we bring forward the case of Saul the noted persecutor of the Church: he verily thought within himself he ought to have done many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth, which things he also did. In this confession of his, no one will undertake to dispute the honesty of his heart or sincerity of his mind.

Now, dear brethren, it is evident from the above cited passages, and many more we might name, that purity of heart and motive is not to be pleaded in point of justification or acceptance with God, independent of the Scriptures.—These things are written as examples—not that we should follow them, but be guarded against them, and all such.

To conclude: "But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." See that ye "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called; for brethren ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another;" and being called into this glorious liberty, speak often to yourselves and to one another about the glory of his kingdom, and talk of his mighty acts. It is your privilege and your duty to range the great field of the Gospel, and well examine every point of its doctrine. Be diligent in searching the Scriptures with a prayerful heart to God for instruction therein, that you may "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," and "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is

the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

And now brethren and sisters, "we commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified; to Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

ASHLEY SWAIM.

MINUTES

OF THE

Abbott's Creek Union Baptist Association,

BEGAN AND HELD AT

PINE WOODS MEETING HOUSE,

ROWAN COUNTY, N. C.

COMMENCING ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE FOURTH

Lord's day in August,

1844.

JAMESTOWN, N. C.
PRINTED BY JOHN SHERWOOD.

1844.

MINUTES.

August 24, 1844.

1. The Introductory sermon was delivered by Elde James Osborne, of Baltimore City, from Jeremiah, 8 chap. and part of the 22 ver.—*Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?*

2 After sermon the Association convened, and was opened by singing and prayer by Elder A. Swaim.

3. Letters from the different churches called for and read, and their state minuted as follows:

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized &c.	Rec'd by letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Deceased	Number	Contributions
Lick Creek,	Jos. Hodge, Thos. Wiatt. Rob'n'r. Park.						1	13	$ c's- 1 00
Abbott's Cr'k,	Elder A. Swaim, Sam'l Craven, O. H Chipman.	3			3		4	100	2.00
Timber Ridge,	Wm. Swaim, Ja's Jordan, D'l Swaim.		1					11	50
Tom's Creek,	El'r A. Peacock. J. Harrison, N. Rush.	1				2	1	43	1,65
Mount Tabor,	El. J H. Craven J. Hammer, N. More.							22	75
Jamestown,	Wm Wiley, J. B. Armfield.					1	1	11	50
Holloway's,	Reuben Workman.							11	75
Frush Creek,	A. Moffit. Jesse Arledge, J. R. Craven.	2						20	75
Pine M. H.	Eld'r J. L. Snyder Wm. Thompson, George Dedman.							43	2.00
Sandy Creek,	Henry Kivit, A. Wright.							16	75
Pine Woods,	Caleb Shaver, Jacob Miller, H. Herrin.			2			1	15	1.40
	Total,	6	1	2	3	3	8	305	2 05

4. Elder Ashlev Swaim chosen Moderator.

5. Corresponding Messengers invited to take seats, when brethren John Wiatt and Benjamin F. Morton appeared from Country Line with minutes. Elder Benjamin Bynum, from Contentnea, presented a file of their minutes. Received files of minutes from the Mayo, Fisher's River, Little River, Kehukee, and Pig River Associations, all of which was cordially received, and Messengers seated themselves. Elder Parham Pucket was also present and took a seat with us.

6. Invited elder James Osborne to a seat with us, which was accepted.

7 Whereas this Association at her session of 1840, withdrew her correspondence from the Bear Creek association for retaining the cold water church in fellowship, since which time that Association have withdrawn their fellowship from that Church, and at their last session appointed Elders George Little, Hosea Presslar, and brother N. B. Jenkins, to attend our association and propose to open a correspondence again with our body, our Association, after having taken into consideration the difficulty heretofore existing between the two Associations, and after discussing the matter with the brethren from that Association, have agreed to open a correspondence with that body again, and the brethren above named took seats with us.

8. On motion appointed brethren Jesse Arledge and Jacob Miller, a committee of Finance.

9. Agreed that elders P. Pucket, G: Little and B. Bynum, with the Moderator and Clerk, arrange the business of this Association, and report on Monday morning.

10. Circular Letter called for and referred to the committee of arrangement.

11. Elected by private ballot, elders James Osborne, George Little and Parham Pucket, to preach tomorrow,—worship to commence at 10 o'clock.

12. Prayer by elder P. Pucket. Adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

13. *Sunday, August 25th.* The brethren appointed to preach attended accordingly. elder P. Pucket preached from Isaiah 40 chap. 1 ver.—"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith your God." Elder James Osborne then preached from Romans 1 chap. 16 ver.—"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Elder G. Little followed, from James, 1 chap. part of 19 ver.—"Wherefore my beloved brethren." Elder Swaim closed by singing and prayer. The people attending on the solemnities of the day were truly attentive, and we hope they may yet receive a blessing.

14. *Monday morning, 9 o'clock.* The Association met pursuant

to adjournment. Singing and prayer by elder Benjamin Bynum.

15. Messengers' names called, and rules of dscorum read.

16. Committee of Arrangement reported; report received and committee discharged.

17. Our brethren appointed to correspond with sister associations reported

18. Proceeded to appoint corresponding Messengers to the following Associations: Elders A. Swaim, J. L. Snyder, and Brethren A. Wadkins and W. Welch, to Country Line; Elder J H. Craven, Brethren Aaron Moffit and Jesse Arledge, to Little River; Brethren O H. Chipman, Sam'l Styres and Barnet Idol to Mayo; Elder Ashley Swsim, brethren Sam'l Craven and A. Wadkins to Fisher's River; Elders A. Peacock, J. L. Snyder, brethren J Miller, J. Young, Hezekiah Herrin and N. Rush. to Bear Creek. Agreed that we forward 40 copies of these minutes to the Kehukee, and 20 copies each to the White Oak, Contentnea and Pig River associations.

19. Committee of Finance reported:

Cash in the hands of the Treasurer		$0.83
Contributions of the churches		12.05
	Total	$12.88
Paid for printing these minutes	$5.00	
Clerk's services	5.00	10.00
leaving a balance on hand of		$2.88

20. The committee to whom the circular letter was referred, although they consider it to contain abundance of good matter, think it not expedient to attach it to these minutes, which was approved of by the association.

21. Elder A. Swaim, requested to prepare a circular letter for next association.

22. Agreed that we have 500 copies of these minutes printed, and our Clerk make distribution of the same.

23. Agreed that our next association be held with the church at Timber Ridge Meeting House, Randolph county, 4 miles North of New Salem; to commence on Saturday before the 4th Lord's day in August 1845,—Elder A. Peacock to preach the Introductory sermon: in case of failure, Elder J. H. Craven.

24. Agreed that we present the inhabitants of the vicinity of Pine Woods Meeting House with our thanks for their hospitality during this association.

25. Singing and prayer by Elder A. Swaim. Adjourned to time and place above mentioned.

ASHLEY SWAIM, *Moderator.*

JOSEPH DAVIS, *Clerk.*

MINUTES

OF THE

Abbott's Creek Union Baptist Association,

BEGAN AND HELD AT

TIMBER RIDGE MEETING HOUSE,

RANDOLPH COUNTY, N. C.

COMMENCING ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE FOURTH

Lord's day in August,

1845.

JAMESTOWN, N. C.
PRINTED BY JOHN SHERWOOD.

1845.

MINUTES.

AUGUST 22, 1845.

1. The Introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Hosea Preslar, from *Eph.* 2 *chap* 13 *ver.*

2. The Association then convened, and was opened by singing and prayer by elder A. Swaim.

3. Letters from the several churches called for and read, and the state of each church minuted as follows:

CHURCHES	MESSENGERS	Baptized &c.	Rec'd by letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Deceased	Number	Contributions
Lick Creek,	Turner Harrison, Joel Reed.							13	$ cts .75
Abbott's Creek	Eld. A. Swaim, O. H. Chipman, A. wadkins.	3			1	2	4	96	2.00
Timber Ridge,	J's. Jordan, D. Swaim.							11	.50
Tom's Creek,	Eld. Asael Peacock, Samuel Styres, James Harrison.					1	2	41	1.00
Mount Tabor,	Eld. Jac. H. Craven, Thompson Craven, Nathan Moore.					2		20	.75
Jamestown,	J. B. Armfield, William Wiley.							11	.50
Holloway's,	Reuben Workman.							11	.25
Brush Creek,	A. Moffat, J. Arledge.				1			17	.50
Pine M. H.,	Eld. J. L. Snyder, Thomas Broadway, George Dedman.	1			2	1	6	35	1.86
Sandy Creek,	A. Wright, H Kivit, A. Ruth.					1		15	.75
Pine Woods,	Not represented.						1	14	1.00
	Total,	4			4	7	13	284	9.86

4. Elder A. Swaim chosen Moderator.

5. Corresponding Messengers invited to seats, whereupon Elder P. Pucket from Contentnea; Elder H. Steele and Brother Drury Hodge with minutes from Fisher's River; Elder J. Smith with minutes from White Oak; Brother John Wiatt from Country Line; Eld. H. Preslar, and Breth'n. Wm. Hamilton and Benj. C. Ashcraft with minutes from Bear Creek, apeared and all seated themselves. Also received a letter of correspondence from the Pig River Association.

6. On motion appointed Brethren Daniel Swaim and Jesse Arledge Committee of Finance.

7. Agreed that Elders P. Pucket, J. Smith and H. Preslar, with the Moderator and Clerk, arrange the business of the Association and report on monday morning.

8. Elected by ballot Elders P. Pucket, J. Smith and H. Steele to preach tomorrow— worship to commence at 10 o'clock.

9. Prayer by Eld. J. Smith, adjourned till monday morning 9 o'cloek.

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10. *Sunday August* 23*d*. The Brethren chosen to preach to day attended. Elder H. Steele preached from Jeremiah 12 chap. 2 ver. Elder J. Smith from Isaiah 54 chap. and 5 verse. Elder P. Pucket from 25 Psalm 14 verse, but by reason of rain the congregation had to disperse before he had time to conclude. The people appeared attentive and seemed anxious to hear the word of life. We hope the labors of the day will not be in vain.

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11. *Monday morning* 9 *o'clock*. The Association met according to adjournment. Singing and prayer by Elder J. Smith.

12. Messengers' names called and rules of Decorum read.

13. Committee of arrangement made their report and was discharged.

14. Our brethren appointed to correspond with sister Associations, reported and were discharged.

15. Appointed corresponding messengers to the following Associations: Elder A. Swaim, and Brethren Wm. Welch and Elkana Swaim to Country Line; Elder J. L. Snyder, and Breth'n O. H. Chipman, J. B. Armfield and George Dedman to Fisher's River; Eld. A. Peacock, and Breth'n J. Reed, J. Harrison and B. Wright to Bear Creek; Elder A. Swaim, and Brethren A. Wright, T. Craven and A. Moffat to Little River; Elder A. Swaim, and Br. A. Wright to Contentnea; Elder A. Swaim, and Breth'n A. Wright, T. Craven and A. Moffat to White Oak. Agreed that we correspond by minutes with the Kehukee and Pig River Associations as usual.

16. Committee of Finance reported:

Cash in the hands of the Treasurer		$2 88
Contributions of the churches		9.86
	Total	$12.74
Paid for printing these minutes	5.00	
Clerk's services	5.00	10.00
leaving a balance on hand of		$2.74

17. Agreed that in future, at our Associations, on Saturday preaching commence at 11 o'clock.

18. Elder A. Swaim requested to prepare a Circular Letter for next Association.

19. On motion agreed that we have 500 copies of these minutes printed, and our Clerk distribute the same.

20. Our next Association to be held with the church at Pine Meeting House, Davidson County, 3 miles from Long's old Ferry on the Yadkin River, to commence on Saturday before the 4th Lord's day in Aug. 1846. Elder A. Peacock to preach the Introductory Sermon, in case of failure Elder A. Swaim.

21. Agreed by the Association, that the inhabitants of the vicinity of Timber Ridge Meeting House be presented with our thanks for their kindness on this occasion.

22. Singing and prayer by Elder A. Swaim. Adjourned to the time and place above mentioned.

ASHLEY SWAIM, *Moderator.*

JOSEPH DAVIS, *Clerk.*